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TAGS: PFOR, CA

SUBJ: FUNK MINISTER CHAU SENG PRESS CONFERENCE

BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING APRIL 5 PRESS CONFERENCE FUNK MINISTER OF SPECIAL MISSIONS CHAU SENG TOOK HARD LINE ON US ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA AND ON POSSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH LON NOL GOVERNMENT. IN QUESTION PERIOD HE STRESSED FUNK INDEPENDENT LINE AND WILLINGNESS TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ANYONE EXCEPT, OF COURSE, LON NOL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. FUNK MINISTER FOR SPECIAL MISSIONS CHAU SENG HELD PRESS CONFERENCE HERE APRIL 5. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON PLATFORM BY MICHEL ROCARD, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EXTREME LEFT FRENCH UNITED SOCIALIST PARTY, AND BY FUNK MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMY THIOUNN MOUNN, WHO SAID HE WAS PASSING THROUGH FROM ROME EN ROUTE TO PEKING. THUS FAR CONFERENCE LARGELY IGNORED BY FRENCH PRESS.

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2. MAJOR THRUST OF CAU SENG' S PREPARED REMARKS WAS SCATHING DENUNCIATION OF U. S. " AGRESSION" IN CAMBODIA. AS USUAL, HE TERMED WAR THERE AND CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF LON NOL GOVERNMENT THE WORK SOLELY OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. CHAU SENG TOOK TOUGH LINE IN PREPARED STATEMENT, SAYING THAT " THE ENEMY TRAPPED IN HIS INSUR-MOUNTABLE INTERNAL CONTRIDITIONS, HAS HAD RECOURSE TO ALL SORTS OF FALLACIOUS MANEUVERS, NOTABLY ' NEGOTIATIONS; " COMPRMISE,' ' PEACE," NATIONAL CONCORD,' ' CEASE- FIRE- IN- PLACE,' ETC.... ALL THESE BASE MANEUVERS HAVE BEEN THWARTED, ONE AFTER THE OTHER," FUNK' S OBJECTIVE REMAINS THE SAME, HE SAID, AND THAT IS REALIZATION OF SIHANOUK' S FIVE- POINT DECLARATION OF 23 MARCH 1970. HE DESCRIBED AS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM QUESTION OF DEALING WITH " TRAITORS" SUCH AS LON NOL, SIRIK MATAK, SON NGOC THANH, IN TAM AND OTHERS.

3. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD CHAU SENG TOOK SLIGHTLY MORE MODERATE LINE. ASKED WHEN HE THOUGH SIHANOUK MIGHT RETURN TO LIBERATED AREAS OF CAMBODIA, HE SAID RETURN WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER AMERICAN AGGRESSION ENDED AND TOTAL LIBERATION ACCOMPLISHED

4. CHAU SENG ECHOED RECENT STATEMENTS BY SIHANOUK TO EFFECT THAT FUNK DID NOT ALWAYS ASK FRIENDS FOR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE . . ." WITH DOLLARS YOU CAN BUY ANYTHING." HE SAID INTERESTS OF FRIENDS DID NOT ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH " STRUGGLE OF OUR PEOPLE" AND THERE FORE " WE MUST ALWAYS MAINTAIN OUR INDEPENDENCE."

5. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN SIHANOUK AND DR. KISSINGER, CHAU SENG SAID SIHANOUK HAD SPOKEN OF " CERTAIN OPENING" TOWARD WASHINGTON BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER, JUST STRENGTHENING OF LON NOL POWER. QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER FUNK SUCCESSES WOULD BRING USSR CLOSER, CHAU SENG SAID POLICY WAS TO HAVE MAXIMUM OF FRIENDS IN MAXIMUM NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. FUNK WOULD NOT TRY TO FORCE THOSE AGAINST IT TO CHANGE, BUT WOULD BE FRIENDS WITH ALL WHO HELP IN ITS FUTURE. MATERIAL ASSISTANCE LESS IMPORTANT THAN POLITICAL SUPPORT.

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6. ON FRENCH RELATIONS WITH FUNK, CHAU SENG SAID DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS ARE PARTICULARLY SOUGHT DUE TO COMMON TRADI-
TION OF FRENCH LANGUAGE, BUT HE ADDED FUNK NOW HAS NEARLY
EVERYTHING NEEDED TO CARRY ON DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES, SO
IT CAN WAIT.

7. CHAU SENG CONCLUDED THAT AS LONG AS KHMER POPULATION
NOT READY TO JOIN LIBERATION MOVEMENT, FUNK WOULD
CONTINUE POLITICAL WORK. " WHEN FRUIT IS RIPE AND POPU-
LATION RISES, THIS WILL BRING CHAOS."

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